
Introduced by Senator Migden

February 27, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87—Relative to the light brown apple moth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 87, as introduced, Migden. Light brown apple moth.

This measure would request the Department of Food and Agriculture to impose a moratorium on any aerial spraying that may be a part of the department’s eradication campaign of the light brown apple moth until the department can demonstrate that the pheromone compound it intends to use is both safe to humans and effective at eradicating the light brown apple moth.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The presence of the light brown apple moth
2 (LBAM), which is originally from Australia, has been confirmed
3 in 12 counties, which include Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles,
4 Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San
5 Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Solano, since its discovery
6 in California by the Department of Food and Agriculture and the
7 United States Department of Agriculture in March 2007; and
8 WHEREAS, The introduction of the LBAM represents a danger
9 to California’s natural environment and agricultural industry; and
10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture is
11 testing the efficacy of the aerial spraying of pheromones, a
12 substance that disrupts the mating of the LBAM, conducted in
13 New Zealand to eradicate the LBAM, but these tests have not been
14 completed and the efficacy results of the tests are not known; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 16,000 LBAMs were found in the bay
2 area and most of these moths were found in the epicenter, which
3 is Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Food and
5 Agriculture, aerial spraying for the LBAM is needed in 10 bay
6 area counties and the department is developing a new formula to
7 use to eradicate the LBAM, which was not the one used in the
8 Monterey and Santa Cruz areas in 2007, but the department has
9 not disclosed all of the ingredients; and

10 WHEREAS, Over 600 health complaints were tallied after aerial
11 spraying for the LBAM in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties last
12 year, raising serious questions about the safety of the spray to
13 humans. During the aerial spraying, the planes doused cities,
14 suburbs, and rural areas with a pheromone called CheckMate,
15 which regulators initially said carried a harmful ingredient, and
16 then said it did not. Moreover, the health effects in the bay area
17 cannot be predicted because the population includes sensitive
18 groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, and
19 people with chronic disease; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Department of Food and Agriculture
22 is requested to impose a moratorium on any aerial spraying that
23 may be a part of the department's eradication campaign of the light
24 brown apple moth until the department can demonstrate that the
25 pheromone compound it intends to use is both safe to humans and
26 effective at eradicating the light brown apple moth; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the Department of Food and Agriculture and the
29 author for appropriate distribution.

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